

2. Birds met with above 5000 feet are the exception and not the rule.
3. That nocturnal flight need not be higher than diurnal, and that, in fact, it is not.
4. That the bulk of migratory flight is conducted below 3000 feet whether by day or night.
5. That under normal conditions, different species travel at different altitudes, some very low and some invariably high, but that during abnormal weather conditions, all birds are apt to fly low.
6. That during migratory flight, birds prefer to descend to below cloud level, though this is not always the case. Exceptions probably occur when gaps occur in a cloud-bank, or where islands of land continue to be visible beyond or above the cloud area.

XXXV.—*Obituary.*

CLAUDE G. FINCH-DAVIES.

WE learn with great regret of the sudden death of Lieut. Finch-Davies of the 1st South African Mounted Riflemen, which occurred at the Castle at Capetown on the 3rd of August last, and was due to a sudden attack of angina pectoris. He was only 46 years of age, and his death is a great loss to South African ornithology.

Mr. Davies in early life joined the Cape Mounted Rifles, and spent the early years of his service in Pondoland and East Griqualand. When the Union of South Africa was formed, his regiment became the South African Mounted Riflemen, and with it he saw a good deal of war service during the late war, obtaining his commission as a Lieutenant in 1915. His wife was a daughter of Capt. Finch of Capetown, and after his marriage in 1916 he assumed the additional name of Finch. His wife and three children survive him.

Lieut. Finch-Davies joined the South African Ornithologists' Union in 1907 and the B. O. U. in the following

year, and contributed a number of articles on the birds of Pondoland and East Griqualand to the Journal of the former society between 1907 and 1914. He was also a most accurate and conscientious bird-artist, and many of our readers will remember the series of coloured plates from his brush with which the late Major Horsbrugh's 'Game-birds and Waterfowl of South Africa' was illustrated.

After the war he was stationed at Okanjande in the northern part of the South-West African Protectorate, and wrote an account of the birds which he had there observed and collected for the newly established South African Journal of Natural History. To the pages of 'The Ibis' (1919, p. 167) he contributed an account of *Hieraaëtus ayresi*, which he proved to be identical with Sharpe's *Lophotriorchis lucani*; this was illustrated by a fine plate reproduced from his own painting of this handsome Hawk-Eagle. His premature death at the early age of 46 deprives South Africa of an ornithologist of great promise.

XXXVI.—*Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.*

Baldwin on Bird-banding.

[Bird-banding by means of systematic trapping. By Prentiss Baldwin. Abstract of Proc. Linn. Soc. New York, no. 31, 1919, pp. 23-56; 7 pls.]

Mr. Baldwin's bird-marking has been done, not so much with a view to migration work as to study various other questions in regard to the habits of birds. His method is to band adults as well as nestlings, and he obtains his material by systematic trapping with the American Government Sparrow-trap which causes no injury to the birds when taken. The work has been carried out on two farms, one in Ohio and the other in Georgia, in the middle and southern States respectively.

He states that he finds the same individual bird is caught again and again and often several times on the same day. He hopes in the course of time to bring evidence forward as to the length of life of wild birds, and he has already proved